

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Kemp's Mill/Lechliders Mill

2. Planning Area/Site Number 33/5

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 17
A-164. Address Randolph Road between intersections with Kemp Mill and
Old Randolph Roads

5. Classification Summary

Category siteOwnership publicPublic Acquisition NAStatus unoccupiedAccessible yes: unrestrictedPresent use parkPrevious Survey Recording M-MCPC Federal State X County X Local
(Title and date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976)

6. Date late 18th century

7. Original Owner

8. Apparent Condition

a. unexposedc. original siteb. altered

9. Description: The remains of the mill dam, race, and wheel pit are located within Wheaton Regional Park. Traces of the mill are difficult to find: the dam is a mound of dirt, overgrown with weeds; the race is partially filled with trash; and the wheel pit is a hole at the end of the race. The "new" race trends north for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, gradually becoming shallower and narrower. The "old" race curves gradually toward the northwest, eventually joining the new one. The mill relics are located .4 mile north of Randolph Road on Old Randolph Road near Kemp Mill Road, just west of a subdivision called Hawkesbury Terrace.

10. Significance: Kemp's Mill is representative of the many water-powered saw and grist mills which were constructed in Montgomery County before the Civil War, and could not compete in the commercial world of the 20th century.

The mill appears on a 1794 map; it was owned by Evan Thomas, a prominent Quaker, and an outspoken early American patriot. Thomas leased the mill during his ownership, and sold it in 1816.

After 20 years of ownership by Francis Valdenar, the Kemp family ran the mill from 1857 to 1905; two overshot wheels powered saw and grist mills. Joseph Lechliders bought it and sold the business four years later to Preston Ray. In 1919, the property was again turned over, but by then the mill was finished as a commercial operation.

11. Date researched and researcher 2/79 - David L. Prestemon

12. Compiler Peg Coleman

13. Date Compiled 2/79

14. Designation
Approval 15. Acreage: Approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ long,
narrow acres.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 33/5

MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Kemp's Mill/Lechliden's Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Randolph Road between intersections with Kemp Mill and Old Randolph Roads

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Telephone #: 565-7396

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20907

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 2302

Folio #: 403

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M:33-5

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☒ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

All remaining evidence of this landmark is within the Wheaton Regional Park, east of the Northwest Branch. Remains of the mill dam can be found on the Northwest Branch west of a subdivision cul-de-sac called Hawkesbury Terrace, .4 mile north of Randolph Road. The site of the mill itself cannot be determined from the land records. It may have been obliterated by the clearing of parkland or the construction of the new Randolph Road. However, one corner of the former mill tract (as indicated on drawing) shows signs of having borne some structure. This should be investigated by someone competent to evaluate it before it is lost.

The 1865 map and an 1873 plat of a proposed change in the course of Kemp Mill Road shows Kemp's mill on the south side of Randolph Road near where the old road now joins the new road, and this location coincides with the recollection of a long-time County resident interviewed by Park Historian, Michael Dwyer.

At Randolph Road, the "new" race is an impressive, steep-sided ditch, about 15' deep and 30' across, now partially filled with trash. The race trends north for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, gradually becoming shallower and narrower. Remnants of the race are also visible on the south side of Randolph Road, where they run for 50 yards or so along the eastern edge of the cleared park land, ending in a hole suggestive of a wheel pit.

Twenty-five or thirty yards east of the new race, that is, towards the Northwest Branch, the old race is also detectable as a level terrace running parallel to the contours of otherwise sloping terrain. The old race curves gradually towards the northwest, eventually joining the new race.

The mill dam is an unremarkable mound of dirt on the Northwest Branch; it is heavily overgrown, but clearly identifiable.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:33-5

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES late 18th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kemp's Mill is representative of the many water-powered mills which were constructed in Montgomery County before the Civil War and which could not compete in the commercial world of the 20th century.

A mill on the Northwest Branch at the Glenmont-Colesville (now Randolph) Road was in operation at least as early as 1794,¹ and may well have been in existence prior to the Revolution. At the turn of the 19th century, the mill property was owned by Evan Thomas (c. 1738-1825), a prominent Montgomery County Quaker, and, formerly, an outspoken advocate of the break with Great Britain. In 1802, Thomas acquired from Henry Culver a small parcel of property adjacent to the mill tract, together with the right to the water running through Culver's land in the Northwest Branch, "for the use and benefit of the mills now erected or that may at any time hereafter be erected on the present mill seat of the said Evan Thomas on the Northwest Branch." This acquisition appears to have been for the purpose of extending the mill race into Culver's property, and probably was undertaken in connection with an expansion of mill operations.²

In 1803, Thomas leased the mill property to a Thomas Brown, miller, for 99 years, at an annual rent of seventy-two pounds.³ Within a few years, however, Brown released the property to Thomas, and Thomas subsequently sold the mill to Aaron and Elizabeth Dyer in 1816.⁴ By this time, Thomas was living in Baltimore City, apparently retired from farming.

There is nothing in the Montgomery County land or will records to indicate how or when Evan Thomas acquired the mill property. This suggests that Thomas obtained the land prior to 1776, and raises the possibility, because the contours of the tract follow the mill race, that the mill was also in existence prior to that date. It is also possible, however, that Thomas owned a larger tract of land incorporating the mill property, and that the mill property was carved out and defined for the first time for purposes of the lease to Brown. (This, on the other hand, seems unlikely, since the leased property was far more extensive than would have been necessary for mill operations alone.)

From the Dyers, through trustees, the mill property was conveyed to Francis Valdenar in 1837.⁵ In 1857, Valdenar transferred the mill to George Kemp, who advertised that he was "unable to carry on because of delicate health" and offered to sell the mill.⁶ Kemp died in May of 1858, leaving the property to his children, Louisa V. Valdenar, James E. Kemp and George Kemp, subject to a life estate in his wife, Susan.⁷ Evidently, the Kemp family continued to own and operate the mill during the latter half of the 19th century, since their name is associated with it in all subsequent references.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Kemp's Mill/Lechliders Mill

According to the 1879 Atlas, James H. Zeigler operated the grist and saw mill on Northwest Branch. The 1880 census of manufacturers listed the capital investment of the saw mill at \$1,245, with an annual output of 50,000 board feet. An 11 foot fall drove an 18 horsepower overshot water wheel 4' broad at 20 rpm; one employee supervised a circular saw and a Muley saw. The grist mill represented a capital investment of \$2,000, had two employees, three run of stones, 100 bu. per diem maximum capacity, and did 66% custom trade. A 14' fall drove a 20 horsepower overshot wheel 5' broad at 20 rpm. Annual output was 700 bbl flour, 7 bbl rye, 167 tons meal, 27.7 tons feed, and 4 tons buckwheat.⁸

In 1905, the Kemps conveyed the mill to Joseph R. and Mamie V. Lechliders for \$2,500.⁹ The Lechliders in turn sold the mill to Preston B. Ray in 1909.¹⁰ At this point, it appears that an expansion or rejuvenation of the mill operation was contemplated, as a new, straighter and significantly larger mill race was constructed to replace the old race at its southern end. By 1919, however, it appears that the mill was finished as a commercial operation, as a subsequent conveyance from Preston Ray to Alfred and Mary Ray makes no mention of the mills proper or the associated water rights.¹¹

The mill site and 110.88 acres were purchased by M-NCPPC in 1957 from Abraham S. Kay.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Griffith, Dennis, Map of Maryland, 1794.
2. Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, K203.
3. Ibid., K515.
4. Ibid., N240 (release); S467 (Thomas to Dyer).
5. Ibid., BS8/241.
6. Montgomery County Sentinel, March 20, 1857.
7. Land Records, JGH6/340.
8. Census of Manufacturers, 1880 (State Library, Microfilm, information from John McGrain).
9. Land Records, Op. Cit., 184/178.
10. Ibid., 206/107.
11. Ibid., 206/111 (exchange of land, including old race for land including new race between Preston Ray and Benton Ray); 278/254 (Preston Ray to Alfred and Mary Ray).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
 On-site inspection, fall and winter, 1978.
 Maps: 1794, 1865, 1879.
 Montgomery County Sentinel
 Census of Manufacturers, 1880.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

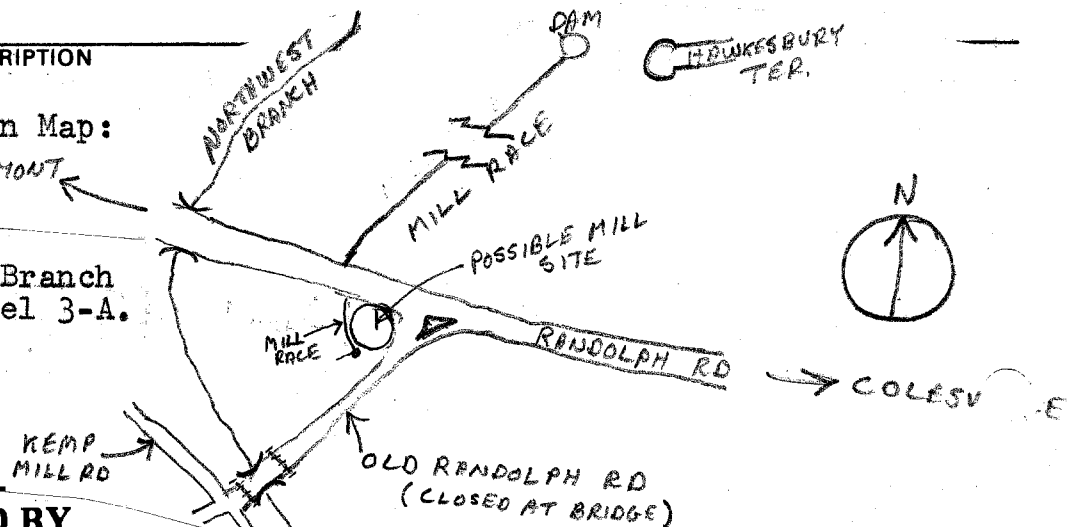
Approximately 1½ long, narrow acres for mill.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Location Map:

GLENMONT

Part of Northwest Branch
 Park, Unit 5, Parcel 3-A.

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

David L. Prestemon

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

February 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
 Box 87, Stronghold
 Dickerson, Md. 20753
 (301) 926-4510

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Kemp Mill/Claysville Site				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Randolph Rd. & NW Branch				
CITY OR TOWN: Wheaton/Colesville				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious				
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission				
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Ave.				
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:33-5

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed </div>
	<div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This site is located on both sides of Randolph Rd., beyond Kemp Mill Rd. on the east bank of the creek. The park ballfield stops at the edge of the millrace remains. Beyond this was an old frame farmhouse, that stood until 10 or 15 years ago. The mill was actually located across Randolph Rd. to the SE.</p> <p>The area is presently being greatly altered by the relocation of Randolph Rd.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A mill stood on this site at least as early as the 1790's, when it was owned by Evan Thomas, a man prominent in local and state history (See Farquhar-"Mt. Radnor".) It was owned by the Kemp Family in the mid-to-late 1800's. It reportedly disappeared around the 1920's.

Unknown to most people, there was a small settlement near the mill during the 1830's called Claysville. One of the mill owners, the Dyer family, also operated a tannery here. There was also a store. Only the mill was still in operation by the Civil War period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Farquhar, R.B. OLD HOMES & HISTORY OF MONT. CO., MD.
(1962) (article on "Mt. Radnor").

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 8/21/75
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Ave.	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

M:33-5

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated June 12, 1984

ACTION TAKEN

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on the Locational Atlas will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition.

Site No.

10/2		23/70
10/9		23/98-1
10/11		24/12
10/22		24/14
10/25		24/15
10/54		25/1
10/71		25/10-1
10/73	15/68	27/5
	15/69	27/7
10/74	16/19	*27/11
11/8	*17/4	*27/13
12/14-1	17/55	28/15
12/16	18/1	28/26
12/26	18/9	30/3
	18/22	30/7
13/15	18/27	30/9
13/16	18/29-1	30/15
13/28	19/8	30/17
13/32	19/18	30/19
	19/20	31/9
14/1	20/6	33/3
14/15	20/14	33/5
14/18	20/27	33/11
14/19	22/5	*34/1
14/23	22/6-1	*34/9
14/30	22/18	
14/31	22/21	
14/40	22/22	
14/48	22/23	
14/54	22/24	
15/10	23/13	
15/11		
15/18		
*15/62		

Site No.

35/6
36/9
*37/4

*Recommended for designation by the Mont. Co. Historic Preservation Commission.

**These sites were previously considered by the County Council and found not to warrant regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. They are listed here to bring the functional Master Plan in conformance with Council's actions.